

# Article Alert

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The books, articles, and web sites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues and concerns in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

## The United Nations at 60

[http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)

### Key Document



In December 2004, at the request of Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), Congress directed the United States Institute of Peace to establish a Task Force on the United Nations. The 12-member bipartisan Task Force, chaired by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, cooperated with the support of leading public policy organizations to assess reforms that would enable the UN to better meet the goals of its

1945 charter and offer Congress an actionable agenda to strengthen the UN.

The Task Force's final report, "American Interests and UN Reform," is available below in PDF format.  
[http://www.usip.org/un/report/usip\\_un\\_report.pdf](http://www.usip.org/un/report/usip_un_report.pdf)

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Charter of the United Nations; June 26, 1945  
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/un/unchart.htm>

U.S. Mission To the United Nations: U.N. Reform -- Statements, Fact Sheets, and Reports  
<http://www.un.int/usa/reform-un.htm>

U.S. Department of State Reports to Congress: US Participation in the UN – 1999-2003  
<http://www.state.gov/p/io/conrpt/>

United Nations: Introduction to the Structure & Work of the U.N.  
<http://www.un.org/aboutun/index.html>

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (PDF)  
<http://untreaty.un.org/English/Terrorism/Conv11.pdf>

U.S. Department of State: U.S. Priorities for A Stronger More Effective United Nations (PDF)  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/48439.pdf>

Founding of the United Nations: "A Profound Cause of Thanksgiving"  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/img/assets/4756/reform.pdf>

The U.N. at 60: A Dynamic Balance Sheet  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/img/assets/4756/balance.pdf>

The United Nations and Practical Reform  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/img/assets/4756/reform.pdf>

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Information Resource Center

# Article Alert

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Copies of articles listed in *IRC's Article Alert* are available from the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta. Should you wish to receive a photocopy of an article, please complete the ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM (page 3) and return it to us. We will mail or fax the requested articles directly to you, at no cost.

## DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

### 1. Who Are We? An Ancient, Many-Faced Question, Now with Acute Relevance

By David Frum, *National Review*, Vol. 57, No. 16, September 12, 2005, pp. 39-43.

Frum, a political columnist and former speechwriter for President George W. Bush, examines how the eternal human question of who we are relates to national security. He addresses the need for a coherent national identity in the face of attack from extremists. Frum writes that knowing where to draw the boundary between "us" and "those who threaten us" is crucial to countering the extremist threat. Statements from national leaders that focus on appreciation of diversity are insufficient, states Frum. Rather, "national survival depends on the willingness and ability of the targets of terrorism to assert and defend a national identity," he concludes.

### 2. Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security: Does the USA Patriot Act Avoid Justice Robert H. Jackson's "Suicide Pact"?

By Dick Thornburgh, *Albany Law Review*, Vol. 68, No. 4, Fall 2005, pp. 801-813

Thornburgh, former US Attorney General under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, describes the balance between the public's rights of assembly and free speech and government order. Thornburgh discusses Justice Jackson's interpretation of the Terminiello case in which a crowd was incited to violence. Jackson wrote "The choice is not between order and liberty. It is between liberty with order and anarchy without either." Thornburgh sees a connection between the Terminiello case and the USA Patriot Act. He outlines the major programs covered by the act and argues for Justice Jackson's common-sense perspective when faced with the threat of terror.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

### 3. The Protection Racket

By Arvind Panagariya, *Foreign Policy*, No. 150, September/October 2005, pp. 94-95

Panagariya, a professor of economics at Columbia University, asks why so many otherwise knowledgeable people still recommend that developing countries should use trade protectionism. Trade liberalization by poor countries -- even if rich countries do not respond in kind -- increases exports and strengthens developing economies, he writes. It's difficult to find any developing country that has accomplished sustained rapid growth while maintaining high trade barriers, he notes. Today, he adds, some contend that agriculture -- now the critical trade issue -- is somehow different, and therefore needs protection. It is true that liberalization must proceed gradually and with proper safety nets for dislocated farmers, he says, but poor countries need to liberalize their own markets if they want to grow economically -- no matter what the rich countries do.

## GLOBAL ISSUES/ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

### 4. Drugs Get Smart

By Michael Arndt and Kerry Capell, *Business Week*, September 5, 2005, pp. 76-85

The authors argue that new medications to cure human diseases are about to become more efficient. The issue is that genetic variations among individuals make today's prescription medications effective only for some of the people who take them. In the future, however, new technologies will help drug companies tailor innovative medications to the genome of the individual; this will become possible due to research currently taking place that is decoding human DNA, and how it varies from person to person. Some theorists believe, for example, that there are different varieties of such commonplace conditions as heart disease that need to be medicated differently depending on the patient's biochemistry. "Personalized medicine" is already beginning, as with the anti-cancer drug Herceptin, prescribed for patients with a particular genetic variation. Tests are already on the way to tell how easily individual patients metabolize medications, in order to make it easier to choose the right type and dose; and to pinpoint how aggressive a cancer is likely to be, so treatment can be foreseen. The downside: soon so much will be known about an individual's genetic makeup that people might be discriminated against on the basis of theoretical genetic vulnerability.

5. The TV of Tomorrow

By Thomas Goetz; Josh McHugh; and Frank Rose, Wired, September 2005, pp. 102-117

The authors of this series of articles predict a world where TV becomes synonymous with the Internet and there are millions of sources of video entertainment. Downloading TV clips from Web logs and video sites, Americans are already watching parts of their favorite shows on their computers, rather than on TV. Enthusiasts even download entire shows and trade them with friendsonline. The distinction between the traditional networks, cable channels, and Web video sources will fade, the authors assert. There are already several Internet start-ups with names like Akimbo, Brightcove, and Dave TV that potentially offer unlimited TV programming in the form of Internet video downloads for a fee. The Internet company Yahoo is positioning itself to deliver large amounts of video quickly. Major U.S. telephone companies are planning to offer high-quality video feeds through fiber optic cable. The next challenge: intelligent indexing systems that allow viewers to search quickly through giant video archives for whatever they want. One of the beneficiaries: sports, to be available on everything from large screens to computers to cell phone screens, all places, all times.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

6. Post-Nuclear Strategy

By Barry M. Blechman, National Interest, No. 80, Summer 2005, pp. 86-92

Co-founder and chairman of the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, DC, Blechman recognizes that although "nuclear weapons are overrated" and represent "no magic talisman" to guarantee survival of a regime, they are nonetheless a "great equalizer in international affairs." He acknowledges the continued threat of Russian and Chinese nuclear arsenals, as well as the present and future threat posed by nations like North Korea and Iran and by extremists. These threats require that the U.S. redouble supply-side restraints such as the Comprehensive Threat Reduction program, strengthen IAEA safeguards, and promote multilateral cooperation. His strongest argument is to reverse the Senate's opposition to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and wield it against China, North Korea and others who seek to advance their nuclear weapon designs and capabilities.

7. Rescuing the Law of War: A Way Forward in an Era of Global Terrorism

By Michael H. Hoffman, Parameters, Vol. 35, No. 2, Summer 2005, pp. 18-35

Hoffman, an attorney and retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, believes that uncertainly about the application of the law of war to terrorists is creating a situation in which "terrorists are gaining an astonishing legal edge over US and other armed forces deployed against

them" because the US judiciary is "bestowing legal status and privileges on members of terrorist organizations that have no precedent in the 3,500-year recorded history of warfare." He refutes the notion that all armed conflict is regulated by the Geneva Conventions because they cover only international armed conflict or conflict between nations, noting that no treaty covers situations where "privately organized armed forces cross international borders, stalk international sea lanes, or strike at international aviation for their own ideological or political purposes." According to Hoffman, the term "unlawful combatant" refers only to spies, saboteurs, and guerrilla fighters who are operating during wartime and historical precedence precludes civilian court jurisdiction in such cases. History can, however, provide the basis for adapting the customary rules of war to protect society from terrorists and to protect terrorist prisoners from criminal abuse. He believes that the executive branch of government with Congressional oversight is best equipped to devise rules for this challenge.

8. Demographic Trends and Military Recruitment: Surprising Possibilities

By George H. Quester, Parameters, Vol. 35, No. 1, Spring 2005, pp. 27-40

Quester, professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland, notes that the "graying" of the population will diminish the available pool for military recruitment. He also points out that, since "a smaller fraction of the armed services will require youth and physical vigor, and a larger proportion may instead require maturity, experience, and technological expertise," and "military operations other than war" (MOOTW) are gaining in importance, the age of military retirement might be raised and role of women in the military expanded. Another possible source of recruits is immigrants. Quester also discusses the increased reluctance in the industrialized West to suffer casualties, due to the smaller size of families; changes in the military mission, such as increased responsibility for border control; and demographic trends in other countries, such as the shortage of women due to female infanticide, that increase threats to peace. He concludes that the US may have to make radical changes in its recruitment and retention practices if it is to maintain an all-volunteer force.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

9. Roberts V. The Future

ByJeffrey Rosen, New York Times Magazine, August 28, 2005, pp. 24-51

The author, a legal scholar, first met Supreme Court nominee John G. Roberts Jr. in 2002 when Roberts was an attorney. While Congress prepared for his confirmation hearings, Rosen muses about the controversies that the Court will confront within the next two decades. It is interesting to see how Roberts might react, Rosen notes, but even more interesting to see the evolving sociology that could come to be not only America, but much of the rest of the world.


10. American Icon

By Bennard Perlman. Art & Antiques, October 2005, Vol. 28, Issue 10, p162-164.

The article presents information about American painter Grant Wood. Wood lived in Paris, France for a few years prior to his producing "American Gothic," during which time he first adopted the impressionists' style, then turned to a meticulously detailed realistic technique practiced by the 16th-century Flemish and German masters. The hard-edged, sponge-like foliage in the painting, one of several trademarks in Wood's landscapes, was inspired by similar decorative elements in the Wood family's inexpensive China. "American Gothic" became part of the museum's permanent collection in the very year it was painted, thanks to the Friends of American Art, which was established there in 1910.

“See You in the USA ”

http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0905/ijpe/ijpe0905.htm



This *eJournal USA* brings together the information you need to make your trip to the United States as easy as possible. It also defines the acronyms of U.S. government travel programs and explains how these fit in with those of other nations.

“See You in the USA” makes clear that the United States wholeheartedly welcomes foreign visitors who desire to study, conduct business, or simply see the sights in its very diverse 50 states.

The journal begins with an explanation of border-crossing procedures and terms, followed by first-person articles of what is it like to be an American official - a consular officer and a customs and border protection officer - on the other side of the window, trying to determine who is a legitimate short-term traveler. Experts in international student exchange programs give tips on how to both seek admission and pay for a U.S. college education, while international students write about their time in the United States.

Finally, a panel of government and business experts frankly discuss the issues around obtaining business travel visas. This is followed by two business executives - from Santiago, Chile and Hong Kong - describing their experiences with post-9/11 travel to the United States.

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No. 10, October 2005

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